

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi 135 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001 tel 212.736.8500 • www.stfrancisnyc.org

The Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Midtown Manhattan is a parish in the Archdiocese of New York and an urban ministry center staffed by the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province and their partners in ministry.

Inspired by our faith in Jesus Christ, and rooted in the charism of St. Francis of Assisi, we actively WELCOME all people.



We WORSHIP God through prayerful and inspiring liturgies, the celebration of the sacraments, and the devotional life of the Church. We WITNESS to our faith by ministering to everyone, especially those who are poor, alienated or oppressed.

Our Weekly Schedule

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Evening Vigil Masses

4:00, 5:15 PM (Organ & Cantor)

Sunday Masses

8:00 AM (Organ & Cantor), 9:15 AM (Korean), 9:30 AM (Organ & Cantor; Lower Church), 11:00 AM (Organ & Choir); 12:30 PM (Organ & Cantor), 5:00 & 6:15 PM (Contemporary Ensemble)

Weekday Masses

7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 11:30 AM; 12:30, 4:30, 5:30 PM

Saturday Morning Masses

8:00, 11:00 AM

First Friday Filipino Community Mass

6:15 PM (Lower Church)

Holidays

Consult the weekly bulletin and the posted notices for federal and other holidays.

On the cover:

The Jesse Tree window in the western façade of Chartres Cathedral in France is the oldest complete stained glass depiction of the Jesse Tree in the world, made around 1145. It depicts the family tree of Jesus beginning with Jesse, father of King David.

"On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom... On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal fo the nations, the Gentiles will seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11: 1, 10)

Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation

Monday - Friday 7:30 – 8:30 AM; 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM; 4:00 – 5:30 PM **Saturday** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM; 3:30 – 5:30 PM **Sunday** 8:30 – 9:30 AM; 4:30 – 5:30 PM

Devotions

Monday

Devotions in Honor of St. Monica after 8:30 AM, 12:30 & 5:30 PM Masses

Tuesday

Devotions in Honor of St. Anthony after all Masses starting at 7:45 AM

Wednesday

Devotions in Honor of St. Jude after 8:30 AM, 12:30 & 5:30 PM Masses

Thursday

Devotions in Honor of Our Lady of Lourdes for the Sick after 8:30 AM, 12:30 & 5:30 PM Masses

Friday

Devotions in Honor of the Sacred Heart after 12:30 & 5:30 PM Masses Lenten Season: Stations of the Cross Easter Season: Stations of the Resurrection

Saturday

The Rosary after the 11:00 AM Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Lower Church) Summer hours: 9:00 - 11:15 AM; 1:00 - 4:15 PM

The Pastor's Corner



This is the Second Sunday of Advent and we hear John the Baptist proclaim the message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." John's message was meant to "prepare the way of the Lord." John had to deal with many obstacles that stood in the way of people accepting that the "kingdom

of heaven was at hand."Yet many went to be baptized by him. The "closeness" of the kingdom is a message for us and it is meant to help us remove any obstacles that prevent us from allowing it to enter into our lives. Advent is a time to realize the closeness of God to us. What prevents us from realizing this?

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is not celebrated on Sunday, December 8, this year, but has been transferred to Monday, December 9. However, it is **not** a holy day of obligation. It is a special day, and attending Mass is the best way to observe it.

Have you seen the Christmas ornaments and nativity sets in the lobby of the Parish House? Many are from Peru, India and Kenya and are products of Fair Trade Communities. The craftsmanship is amazing on the ornaments and small nativities. Pleas stop by.

Fr. Andrew Reitz, O.F.M.



new! A free will offering to support our music

ministry will be received.

ADVENT 2019

AN ADVENT AFTERNOON OF PRAYER
Saturday, December 14, 2019
2:00 – 5:00 PM; San Damiano Hall • Fee: \$20.00

The biblical stories of Advent and Christmas have inspired some of the world's finest artists. Fr. Michael Reyes, O.F.M., a visual artist currently completing a Master of Fine Arts degree at New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture, will draw on his knowledge of art and the process of painting to help participants reflect on the characters and themes of Advent. The afternoon will include Fr. Michael's presentations, communal prayer, time for quiet meditation and the opportunity to celebrate our parish's 5:15 PM Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent.

ADVENT NOVENA OF "SIMBANG GABI" MASSES

Collection for Retired Religious Next Weekend

The annual appeal for retired religious priests, brothers and sisters takes place next weekend, December 14-15. This appeal assists retired members of religious orders and communities who have given so much to the church over the years. Your gift will make a real difference in the lives of thousands of men and women religious, especially in the area of health care.

News from the St. Francis Knitters

The St. Francis Knitters are accepting **new** hand-made or purchased hats. They are also accepting donations of yarn (dark colors are preferred). All donations can be dropped off at the reception desk in the lobby of the Parish House. Would you like to join them?

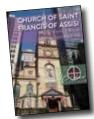
New members are always welcome. Just send an email to Nancy Zavoluk at nanzavoluk@aol.com.

Bereavement Support Group

The St. Francis Bereavement Ministry offers an opportunity for the bereaved to connect with others who grieve, and to seek a path of healing as they come to terms with their loss.

A Bereavement Support Group will meet on six Tuesdays from January 28 to March 3, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Please call Fr. Brian Smail, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500, Ext. 204 to inquire. Interested persons should be at least three months into the grieving process. Pre-registration is required.

175th Anniversary Book



Our Commemorative Anniversary Book would make a perfect Christmas gift! Purchase yours now in the lobby of the Parish House for \$20.



Open Wide Our Hearts, A Pastoral Letter on Racism from the United States Catholic Bishops

To understand how racism works today, we must recognize that generations of African Americans were disadvantaged by slavery, wage theft, "Jim Crow" laws, and by the systematic denial of access to numerous wealth-building opportunities for others. This has left many African Americans without hope, discouraged, disheartened, and feeling unloved. While it is true that some individuals and families have thrived, significant numbers of African Americans were born into economic and social disparity. The poverty experienced by many of these communities has its root in racist policies that continue to impede the ability of people to find affordable housing, meaningful work, adequate education, and social mobility. The generational effects of slavery, segregation, and the systematic use of violence—including the lynching of more than 4,000 black men, women and children across 800 different counties throughout the United States between 1877 and 1950—are realities that must be fully recognized and addressed in any process that hopes to combat (to be continued) racism.

Visit the St. Francis Christmas Market!

Have you stopped by the tables in the Lobby of the Parish House recently? They are filled with Christmas ornaments, nativity sets, Advent and Christmas books and much more. Christmas ornaments and nativity sets are from Peru, India, Kenya and the United States. They are unique and show the detailed craftsmanship of the people from these countries. The ornaments will add color to your Christmas tree and the nativity sets will inspire you. There is plenty of Advent and Christmas reading material also...and special books for children. Stop by and purchase something for yourself or a friend or loved one!







Are you without immigration status?

Here's a possible solution!

STAND UP! is a campaign to protect the rights and welfare of immigrants, especially the undocumented. It is confidential, dependable and secure. For more information, contact us at standupimmigrants@gmail.com or 212-736-8500, Ext. 305.

INMIGRANTES, LEVÁNTENSE CONSTRUYAMOS LA RED La Red de Información. Apoyo y Protección de Inmigrantes

¿Está sin estatus de inmigración?

¡Aqui hay una solución posible!

¡LEVANTENSE! es una campaña para proteger los derechos y el bienestar de los inmigrantes, especialmente los indocumentados. La campaña es confidencial, confiable y seguro. Para más información, contáctenos a standupimmigrants@gmail.com o 212-736-8500, Ext. 305.

Christmas Flower Donations

We invite you to memorialize members of your family or other loved ones with a donation to help defray the costs of our Advent and Christmas expenses. Please fill out the form below and return it with your donation by Wednesday, December 18, to: Church of St. Francis of Assisi, 135 W. 31st Street, New York, NY 10001 (Attention: Christmas Flowers).

The names received by December 19 will be included in a special Christmas bulletin. Donations can also be made online at strancisnyc.org under "Cards and Gifts."

Please print clearly. In Memory of:	
From:	
Address:	
Email (phone # if no email)	
Donation: \$20 \$30 Other:	

The Pastoral Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi

Staff Friars

William Beaudin, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Adult Education wbeaudin@stfrancisnyc.org

Michael Carnevale, O.F.M.

Joseph Cavoto, O.F.M., Counseling Center & Spiritual Direction jcavoto@stfrancisnyc.org

John Felice, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

Julian Jagudilla, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar, Director of Migrant Center jjagudilla@stfrancisnyc.org

Brian Jordan, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

Michael Kim, O.F.M., Director of Korean Ministry

koreanministry@stfrancisnyc.org

David McBriar, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

John McVean, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar

Andrew Reitz, O.F.M., Pastor

areitz@stfrancisnyc.org

Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Director of Liturgy tshreenan@stfrancisnyc.org

Brian Smail, O.F.M., Parochial Vicar & Spiritual Direction bsmail@stfrancisnyc.org

Friars in Residence

Stephen Mimnaugh, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor Thomas Walters, O.F.M., St. Francis Friends of the Poor

Pastoral Associates & Administration

Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries maugustin@stfrancisnyc.org

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chill@stfrancisnyc.org

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Joseph Nuzzi, Director of Evangelization jnuzzi@stfrancisnyc.org

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Rebeca Peraza, Director of Church Development Office

Edward A. Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteer Ministry etrochimczuk@stfrancisnyc.org

Mass Intentions for the Week

The Bread & Wine for Masses this week have been given for the intentions of Catherine B. Puango; for Joseph, Marie & Thomas Powers, Jr., and in memory of Thomas Powers, Sr. from Victorina Powers; in thanksgiving for Nellande Desmoulins.

The Sanctuary Lights have been given in memory of Nenita Sygnia.

Saturday, December 7, 2019

8:00 AM	Kusganon Garces, birthday
11:00	Genese Paraison (d.)
4:00 PM	Franciscan Mass League
5:15	Edward & Catherine Jacob (d.)

Sunday, December 8, 2018

8:00 AM	Alex Seraphin (d.)
9:15	Intentions of the Korean Community
9:30	Mario de la Pax (d.)
11:00	Sister Rose Hoover
12:30 PM	Georgette Saint-Pierre Long champ (d.)
5:00	Elizabeth C. Weese (d.)
6:15	Sr. Mary Patrick McSherry (d.)

Monday, December 9, 2019

7:00	Máire McCarron (d.)
7:45	Fernande Marie Jacques-Symby (d.)
8:30	St. Anthony Novena
11:30	Family & Friends of Eleanor (I. & d.)
12:30 PM	Antoinette Kornacker-Alitto (d.)
4:30	Thanks. to Our Lady of the Rosary
5:30	Candida Corral (d.)

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

7:00	Lucy PcPartland (d.)
7:45	Anne Deriso (d.)
8:30	St. Anthony Novena
11:30	Rodolfo C. Demafiles
12:30 PM	Roberto, Generoso, Renee Almarine
4:30	Ena Bernard (d.)
5:30	Jorge Martorell

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

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7:00 AM	Constantine & Adelena D'Argenio (d.)
7:45	Kevin Collins
8:30	St. Anthony Novena
11:30	Lucia Begonja (d.)
12:30 PM	Paulino Prado (d.)
4:30	Maria da Penna Ferres (d.)
5:30	In honor of St. Jude



Thursday, December 12, 2019

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7:00 AM	Elizabeth C. Weese (d.)
7:45	Jessica Masi, 18th birthday
8:30	St. Anthony Novena
11:30	Claire Kuncewitch (d.)
12.20 DM	The Cick

12:30 PM The Sick

4:30 Providencia Castro Gilbride 5:30 Thomas & Edith Castellano (d.)

Friday, December 13, 2019

7:00 AM	Tarrim & Maxwell Gamble
7:45	Robert Crossland
8:30	St. Anthony Novena
11:30	Amani & Jemina Stronde
12:30 PM	Helen Frances Farrell (d.)
4:30	Kathy Sullivan

5:30 Annie Burke MacNamara Evans (d.)

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Directory

ST. FRANCIS HOUSE: 135 W. 31st Street • SAN DAMIANO HALL: 127 W. 31st Street ST. FRANCIS ADULT EDUCATION CENTER: 139 W. 31st Street

Adult Education

A variety of courses in Scripture, church history, spirituality, personal growth, and other topics are offered at noon and in the evenings in the Fall and Spring months. Special brochures with course offerings are published prior to the start of each term and are available at the church entrances. Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M., Director; 212-736-8500, Ext. 311.

Franciscan Bread for the Poor

The St. Francis Breadline provides food for hungry people every morning of the year at 7:00 AM. Franciscans Deliver brings groceries to area shut-ins on a weekly basis. For more information, go to www.stfrancisbreadline.org.

Counseling Center

Counseling services are available on a short- or long-term basis by appointment only. Sliding scale fee structure. Call 212-736-8500, Ext. 290 for information or to make an appointment.

Saint Francis Bereavement Ministry

While grief is a very private experience, people who have lost loved ones can benefit from the witness and support of others who have lost someone special in their lives. The St. Francis Bereavement Ministry offers an opportunity for the bereaved to connect with others who grieve, and to seek a path of healing as they come to terms with their loss. Call Fr. Brian Smail, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500, Ext. 204 to inquire.

Immigration Assistance

The Migrant Center at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi provides assistance to all immigrants regardless of status. If anyone needs assistance or has concerns about immigration matters, please contact the Migrant Center at 212-736-8500, Ext. 305/377 or email migrantcenter@stfrancisnyc.org.

Korean Ministry

The Korean Community worships in Korean every Sunday at 9:15 AM. A Mass for young adults is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 6:00 PM in the lower church. Fr. Michael Kim, O.F.M.; 212-736-8500, Ext. 384.

LGBT Outreach

Our LGBT ministry is very active in our community. The ministry provides various spiritual, social, and educational events from September through June. For more information, please visit the website to sign up for our mailing list. For more information, contact Meredith Augustin, liaison for the LGBT ministry, at 212-736-8500, Ext. 327.

Mass Cards & Perpetual Enrollments

Available at the Reception Desk in the lobby of St. Francis House. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM; Saturday: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sunday: 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Music Ministry

To become involved in our liturgical music ministry, please call Meredith Augustin, Director of Music Ministries, at 212-736-8500, Ext. 327.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA is the process by which people can question, search, and inquire into the Catholic faith. The RCIA is for any unbaptized adult who is new to the Catholic faith or any unbaptized child usually over the age of 7. The RCIA is also for any adult or child over the age of 7 who was baptized in another Christian tradition and for baptized Catholic adults seeking to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Contact Joseph Nuzzi at 212-736-8500, Ext. 365.

RENEW! Younger Retiree Program

Catholic retirees, age 55 and over, participate in spiritual, cultural, social, and service activities in the New York Metropolitan Area. For information, please contact RENEW at 212-736-8500, Ext. 389.

Secular Franciscans

Lay men and women who strive to follow the Gospel way of life according to the ideals of St. Francis. For information please see our website http://www.stfrancisnyc.org/secularfranciscans.htm.

St. Francis on Facebook

St. Francis Church is on Facebook! Join the group "St. Francis of Assisi NYC" on Facebook to see who else is a member, be informed of news and events and keep in touch with what's going on in your parish community. Stay connected the way you like to stay connected. Join the group today and invite your friends.

Self-Help Groups

St. Francis Church hosts numerous self-help groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Sex Addicts Anonymous, Survivors of Incest Anonymous, and others. Please consult the Self-Help and Support Groups brochure for times and locations of the meetings.

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction as a means of spiritual growth and faith development is provided by the Center Staff. Contact Fr. Joseph Cavoto, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500 for more information.

Ugnayan Filipino Ministry

A home away from home for newly arrived Filipino immigrants. Our ministry sponsors the Sacred Heart devotion during the 6:15 PM First Friday Mass with fellowship afterwards. We conduct Lectio Divina every Third Friday of the month. The ministry also welcomes interested individuals to join their music ministry. Rehearsals are on two consecutive Thursdays before the First Friday. Email: flipinoministry@stfrancisnyc.org.

Volunteers

St. Francis Church invites individuals to give freely of their time and expertise in order to make a difference. Our volunteers participate in liturgical ministries as well as other forms of service to the church and the community. Edward Trochimczuk, Director of Volunteers. Email: etrochimczuk@stfrancisnyc.org.

Young Adult Ministry

This is a ministry of, by, and for Catholic men and women in their 20's and 30's. At St. Francis we believe that ministering to young adults begins by creating an environment where people feel welcome, especially by worshipping God together in a way that feeds the spirit. For more information please email: youngadults@stfrancisnyc.org.

